



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: **YAJIMA, Taro, et al.**

Group Art Unit: 1753

Serial No.: 10/657,192

Examiner: **Rodney G. McDonald**

Filed: **September 9, 2003**

P.T.O. Confirmation No.: 1622

For: **MATCHING BOX, VACUUM APPARATUS USING THE SAME, AND  
VACUUM PROCESSING METHOD**

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

January 31, 2006

Sir:

This is a Preliminary Amendment in conjunction with the Request for Continued Examination filed on January 6, 2006. Please amend the above-captioned patent application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 9 of this paper.